

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Supportive Services

Problem:

DBE Supportive Services may not have performance measures that demonstrate performance results. DBE Supportive Services funds are allocated annually to State Transportation Agencies (STAs) to aid them in developing DBE/SS programs designed to increase the number of certified and qualified DBEs active in the highway program, and that contribute to their growth and self-sufficiency.

Without performance measures there is no accountability. Accountability refers to the act of being answerable for the expenditure of public funds and for accomplishing the stated purpose as written in 23 CFR 230. Since future allocations of DBE/SS funds may be based on programs that achieve results, performance based programs are strongly recommended.

Solution:

Make your DBE/SS program a performance based program to measure program goals and objectives. A member of the Civil Rights Technical Service Team (CR TST), in conjunction with the Headquarters' Civil Rights Office, hosted a DBE/SS forum to develop a framework for a performance based DBE/SS program. The CR TST has team members that possess hands on experience developing performance based programs and will work with you to resolve issues you may have but are unsure of how to handle. They are recognized experts in FHWA authorities and partners to HCR. They assisted in the development of the proposed DBE/SS document to assist FHWA, STAs, and other interested parties to establishing a basic DBE/SS program that meets the goals and objectives of the CFR.

Each CR TST member is a designated subject matter expert that is available to discuss your particular needs. They can explain what components must be addressed in a Work Statement in order to gain approval. They can suggest ways and tools that can be used by FHWA, STAs and others who have responsibility for managing a DBE/SS program.

The FHWA Civil Rights Technical Service Team offers training, workshops and technical assistance and can customize training to fit your particular needs.

Successful Applications:

Working with HCR, a CR TST member hosted a DBE/SS forum in December of 2003 in New Orleans, LA. Working with 45 participants from throughout the country representing STAs, FHWA Division offices, Resource Centers and consultants, a framework for a performance based DBE/SS program was proposed.

Additional Resources

To learn more, visit www.fhwa.dot.gov/resourcecenter

For more information, contact:

Teresa Banks, FHWA Resource Center
Phone: (404) 562-3592
E-mail: teresa.banks@fhwa.dot.gov